

veto of the budget for the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council, as you well know, is us. What the Governor did is the Governor took \$200,000 out of the budget for our own services, \$50,000 out of the budget for the Clerk and \$50,000 out of the budget for the Research Office. He left alone the ombudsman's office. He left alone the fiscal analyst's office but he hit those three. Now of course, as you well know, the Governor has also cut back our operational increase and he also cut back in his salary increases. So what I am simply doing is moving to override the Governor's veto of the \$300,000 specific cuts and of course although at the same time we have to, under the Attorney General's opinion, go back with the salary increases and the operational increase. I think you all know what this issue is about. The issue is a very simple one. Do we control the Legislature? Are we able to have the kind of staff that you and I know we need to have to be able to do the kind of job that we are down here for? Are you and I going to be able to have the kind of Research Office that you and I know we need to have to do the hundred and seven interim studies that are out there this summer? Are you and I going to be able to afford the printing costs so that we can keep bringing bills back on Final Reading to satisfy Senator Beutler's notions of what is correct and what is not correct? That is what it is about. It is as simple as that. It is as simple as that. It is about our having a Legislature, a Legislature that is capable of being the representative body for the State of Nebraska and if we permit our own budget to be cut by the executive branch we, in effect, we, in effect, are permitting ourselves to be less than one of the three equals. And the three equals as you well know are the judiciary, the executive and the legislative. Now in past years the Legislature has always had, always appropriated somewhat more money than has been spent and over the long period of time a little surpluses have built up. So when governors do veto funds from the Legislature, previous chairmen of Exec Boards have been able to say, well maybe we should just let it go because we can kind of live off the surpluses that we had built up. But that has gone on long enough now so that we don't have any surplus. We will undoubtedly carry over from this session to the next fiscal year about \$200,000. That is going to be our carryover it now appears so I guess you could call that a surplus. We traditionally have earmarked those surpluses for the cost of special legislative sessions, thus if we are called at a special session we've got a little bit of money sitting out there that we can use to pay all the added staff that we take on,